

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has determined that claims 1-5 are free of the prior art. In addition, Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 1 and 3 and also has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 5 has been amended to independent form. No new matter has been added by way of amendment.

Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file continuing applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the subject matter of the cancelled claims. While Applicants do not agree with the rejections of claims 2 and 4 as set forth in the instant Office Action, Applicants have cancelled these claims to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Applicants may elect to file one or more continuing applications that are drawn to the subject matter of the cancelled claims. Applicants will address, if necessary, the rejections of these claims in the continuing application(s).

Claims 1, 3, and 5 are pending.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Objection to Claim 5 Should Be Withdrawn

Claim 5 has been objected for not being in independent form. The Office Action has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been amended to independent form as recommended by the Examiner in the Office Action.

In view of the amendment, the objection to claim 5 should be withdrawn. Furthermore, given that the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants submit that claim 5 should be allowed.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 3 are allowed.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

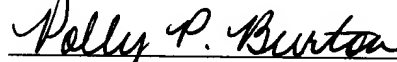


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Polly Burton